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When by the fire we sit hand in hand, My spirit seems to watch beside you

Alert and eager at your least command To do your bidding over earth and sea; You sigh—and of that dubious message fain,

I scour the world to bring you what you Till, from some island of the spicy main The pressure of your fingers calls me back; You smile—and I, who love to be your slave, Post round the orb at your fantastic will,

Though, while my fancy skims the laughing wave, My hand lies happy in your hand, and still: Nor more from fortune or from life would

crave
Than that dear silent service to fulfill.

-Edmund Gosse, DOCTORING ROYAL PATIENTS.

Court Etiquette That Hedges in a Queen from Her Physician's Touch. It was a matter of wonder to many persons in Paris that Dr. Fauvel, the great French specialist in throat diseases. had not been summoned to attend the king of Spain at the commencement of his malady, especially as Dr. Fauvel had always attended Queen Isabella and her children during their residence in Paris for any troubles of that nature. But such a proceeding was forbidden by the strict rules of Spanish etiquette, which prohibits one of the royal family of Spain

from being attended by any physician

who is not a Spaniard by birth. At the time of the last illness of the young Queen Mercedes there resided in Madrid a German doctor who was especially famed for his treatment of typhoid fever, the disease from which the queen was suffering. He had recently saved the life of Mrs. J, R. Lowell when she was suffering from a violent attack of that terrible malady. A few days be fore Queen Mercedes breathed her last her Spanish doctors sent for their German colleague and requested him to pre-scribe for their patient without seeing her. This he positively refused to do saying that he must examine into the physical condition of the queen before prescribing for her. But that could by no means be permitted.

"Then," he said, "let me merely see her-let me go to the door of her room and look at her without crossing the threshold.'

Even that concession was refused. "Then, gentlemen," he declared, "I car do nothing. I will not attempt to prescribe for a patient that I have not ever

He withdrew from the palace, and s few days later the young queen was dead But the sacred laws of Spanish regal stiquette had been preserved without in fringement.

A similar affair, but with a different denouement, took place a good many years ago in Russia. The late czarina e mother of the present emperor of Russia, was shortly after her marriage attacked with a serious affection of the stomach. Up to that time no physiciar could approach the bedside of one of his lady patients of the imperial family nearer than ten feet. The empress grew worse and became alarmingly ill. The Emperor Alexander gave orders that a famous physician called Botkin, of whose skill in such cases he had heard, should at once be sent for. Botkin came, and. to the horror of his colleagues, he walked straight up to the bedside of the empress and took hold of her wrist to feel her pulse. He was instantly hurried from the room and was loudly remonstrated with on the impropriety of his conduct, being told that his imperial patient was to be looked at from a distance and that he must not approach her. Botkin list ened in silence to all that the other doc tors had to say, but when the report of the consultation was drawn up he refused to sign it. The emperor, who was ex ceedingly anxious respecting Botkin's opinion, sent at once for the report, and on noticing that the name of the new doc tor did not appear in it he caused him to

be summoned at once to his presence. "Your majesty," queth Botkin, frankly "I can not pretend to treat a patient that I am not permitted to examine. The empress is, I learn, in a very critical situ ation. I think I can save her, but to de so I must be allowed to go to work in my

own way." The emperor rose from his chair, took Dr. Botkin by the arm and marched with him into the sick-room of the empres and straight up to her bedside. "There, doe tor," he said, "examine your patient, and if any one pretends to interfere with you remember that you are obeying my commands." The course of treatment prescribed by the great physician proved successful. The empress was saved and that particular rule of imperial etiquette was abrogated forever.-Mrs. Hooper's Paris Letter.

Pleasant Mode of Traveling.

Steamboating seems to have lost its former charms for the traveler, owing. I suppose, altogether to its slowness as compared with railroads. It is the pleasantest mode of traveling, though, and I would not be surprised to see the world shake off its wild and impatient way of hurrying through life and return to some extent, at least to the leisurely and comfortable way of getting from one point to another. I may not live to see the day when this change will take place, but it will come. The time will never be reached when the tourist with leisure will not prefer river travel to rail,-Capt. J. H. Dunlap in Globe-Democrat.

Precious Pearls, but Not Any Bread. "Certainly pearls are prized by the Mexicans. It is common to see girls there with strings of pearls around their necks which would fetch a large price in London. I, myself, know women in La Paz who have pearls of extraordinary value, and sometimes they are so poor that they have not the wherewithal to buy food."—Interview with a Pearl Diver.

The Umbrella as a Nightshade. People with weak eyes in New York, who go out of an evening where there are electric lights, carry parasols and umbrellas to protect their eyesight. The sunshade is transformed into a night-

The Ancient Pyramids of Mexico.

The pyramid of Papantla in Mexico is not built of bricks or clay mixed with Preparing the Saltpeter-Production of whinstones, as are most of those in Mexico, but of immense blocks of porphyry, in the seams of which mortar may still be distinguished. The base of But tossing these materials together any the pyramid is an exact square, each way does not make gunpowder by any side eighty-two feet long, with a perpen- means. There is a method, and it is dicular beight of sixty feet. Like all somewhat complicated. That pursued at Mexican teocallis, or places of human the Waltham works, the most famous in sacrifice, it is composed of six successive the world, is as follows: The saltpeter stiges, with a great stairway leading to comes chiefly from Bengal and other the truncated summit. Hieroglyphics provinces in India, where it is found and strange figures-such as serpents, mixed with the soil and as an incrustafrogs and crocodiles-are carved in bas tion on the ground. It is boiled, and relief on the faced stones of each story, crystallized by evaporation. Before it is in number) have given rise to the conjecture that they had some religious hot water will receive in the solution connection with the ancient Toltec more of the saltpeter than the impurities in the stairway toward the east may in water, the resulting solution filtered have stood for the twelve "uscless" or and cooled in large yats, at the bettom of intercalated days at the end of their which the pure saltpeter is deposited in

For centuries after the Spaniards had possessed themselves of this country, the Indians jealously concealed from as under pressure they might produce an them all knowledge of these monuments; explosion. and they were accidentally discovered by a party of hunters, as late as 1780. What manner of people built them and lavished the work of a lifetime upon from Sicily. It is purified by a distilling their adornment, none can say with certainty, since they passed away in the morning of time, leaving no records ex-being ground under iron runners, and cept in undecipherable hieroglyphics. sifted in a kind of revolving cylindrical The most learned savants, after wrang- sieve called a "slope reel." The charcoal ling for years over the early peopling of is made of wood from Holland and Ger-America, have given up the point as an many. Alder and willow are planted unguessable conundrum; and, there near the factories, and the charcoal from fore, we will not be so presumptuous as to

Where Tornadoes Er gin to Form. The most remarkable and interesting feature of the developement of tornadoes is the fact that they nearly always form southeast of a moving center of low pressure, and their tracks, scattered here and there, conform closely to the progressive direction of the main 1884, forty-four tornadoes occurred in Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina, but principally in Georgia and Alabama, They developed at a distance of from 500 to 2,000 miles from a storm center that moved across the northern extremity of the Rocky mountains in Montana, thence southeasterly through Dakota, Minnesota, and Wisconsin to northern Illinois and Indiana, northward through Michigan across Lake Huron, disappear-

ing north of Quebec. This sudden sharp turn of the storm center southward into Illinois and Indiana seems to have relation to the unprecedentedly large number of tornadoes that developed not far from the south Atlantic coast, extending inland as far as southern Illinois and Indiana. This southward lunge of a mass of cold, moist air seems to have caused the abnormal conditions of temperature and dew point, and the high winds necessary to cause the most tremendous exhibition of destructive tornado power ever recorded by the signal service. This invariable loca-tion southeast of the storm center is one of the main peculiarities of tornado development upon which the predictions depend.-Popular Science Monthly.

Imminent Danger of Foreign Invasion. Considering only the ports of Portland and Boston, Newport, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans and San Francisco, it is computed that 665,000,000 pounds sterling are now exposed to destruction or contribution without any source of defense worth speaking of. It is computed that rather more than 12,000,000 pounds sterling, if properly applied, would render these ports impregnable. That is to say, a premium of 18-10 per cent. is required in order to insure this enormous amount of public and private property. If this premium were spread over six years, during which time the defenses would be in hand, the actual premium would be only 3-10 per cent.

It is a marked characteristic of Democratic systems of government in modern times that they are comparatively indifferent to those military pre cautions which are essential to the safety of the state from the attacks of foreign enemies. The encroachments about which they chiefly concern themselves are those of a Democratic character. This has been the case in our own islands until quite recently.-London Military Gazette.

Street Scenes in Persia's Capital. In such a climate as that of Teheran life is naturally passed chiefly in the open

air. The chill of winter, rarely severe, seems to make little difference in the habits of the people. The shops are all open to the streets, the customers standing on the outside, and even the shopkeeper attends to most of his business from the exterior of the shop. carpenter may frequently be seen arranging a piece of joinery on the pavement in front of his shop. The schools often in no-wise differ from the shops; in the midst of a crowded thoroughfare one may see twenty or thirty lads seated on their heels repeating the lesson together in monotonous tone.-S. G. W. Benjamin possible, and will darken your footprints, in The Century.

Electricity in Peruvian Cities.

Peru seems slightly in advance of some other countries, for the government has way. They are infinitely smaller than just arranged to have the principal cities lit by electricity. Coal is very costly in the Peravian republic, and Lima and Callao are the only places that have been lighted with gas, while all others have been dependent on kerosene lamps. In most of the cities the electricity will be generated by means of running water, and the expense will thereby be marvelously reduced.—Scientific Journal.

Remarkable Variation in Stature. A remarkable variation has been observed in the stature of the inhabitants of France. If a line be drawn diagonally ton Herild.

THE MANUFACTURE OF GUNPOWDER

Sulphur and Charcoal-Mixing Process. Gunpowder is composed of three maberials-sulphur, saltpeter and chargoal. while a multitude of square niches (32) used at the factory it is purified by a process which acts on the principle that calendar. The twelve additional niches mixed with it. So the saltpeter is boiled fine crystals. It is then washed, dried and stored in bins, care being taken that no sand or gritty particles are introduced,

The same precautions are taken with regard to the production of the sulphur and charcoal. The best sulphur comes process, which brings it out in handsome yellow crystals. Then it is pulverized by these is used for common powder, and hazard an opinion.-Baltimore black dogwood for fine rifle powder. The chargoal is not prepared in pits, but the wood is sawed into short lengths and packed into iron cylinders, called slips, which are placed on a small carriage and run into a retort like that used in gas works. Here the slips are exposed to the flames for a period of two and a half or three and a half hours, the gas issuing from the wood being utilized for fuel The charcoal when taken out is ground For example, on Feb. 19, in a machine like a giant coffee-mill, and then sifted like the sulphur.

The next process is mixing the ingredi ents. The proportions vary in different countries. For English government powder of every kind it is saltpeter, seventyfive parts; sulphur, ten: charcoal, fifteen -the sulphur being reduced almost to a minimum, as its chief use is to ignite the charge and hasten its motion. The ingredients being weighed for a charge of fifty pounds, are poured into a "churn," which is a revolving drum placed horizontally, and having within it an axis revolving in a differen direction from the drum, and furnished with eight rows of projecting arms. So rapid is the action of this machine that three minutes is sufficient to thoroughly mix the ingredients. It is then called the "green charge," and is ready for the incorporating mills, where the object is to make the mixture so intimate that a new substance is created, namely, gunpowder.

The incorporating houses of Waltham have thirty-two separate mills. Each mill consists of a pair of runners coupled together by a strong axle. This axle which, passing down through the millbed, is connected by bevel wheels with a revolving horizontal shaft driven by steam or water-power. The runners are of Derbyshire limestone and iron, and weigh from three and one-half to four tons. The size of the iron ones is from three and a half to seven feet in diameter. The mill-bed-a circular vat with a flat bottom and sloping sides—is of stone or metal. On this bed fifty pounds of the green charge is spread and moistened with water, and the mill is set going. Common powder is left under the mill

three hours, rifle powder five hours. On leaving the mill the gunpowder is in the form of a soft cake which easily breaks up into dust. This is pressed in layers between plates of copper or gunmetal to increase its hardness or density and then made into the required form by machinery.-Cincinnati Enquirer.

Insect Life Among the Snowflakes, Some imaginative and wonderfully learned German scholars tell us that ev ery snowflake is inhabited by happy lit-tle beings, who begin their existence, hold their revels, live long lives of happiness and delight, die and are buried, all during the descent of the snowflake from the world of clouds to the solid land. These scholars also tell us that every square foot of air possesses from 12,000,000 to 15,000,000 of more or less perfect little beings, and that at every ordinary breath we destroy millions, more or less, of these happy lives. The sigh of a healthy lover is supposed to swallow up about 14,000,000. They insist that the dust, which will, as all know, accumulate in the most secure and secret places, is merely the remains of millions and billions of these little beings who have died of old age.

All this, of course, is mere guess work. But I do know that the snow in some parts of the world is thickly inhabited. I have seen new snow in Idaho black with little insects. People there call them snow flies. They are as lively as walk as fast as you may. They are found only on the high mountains and only in very fresh and very deep snow. They, of course, do not annoy you in any the ordinary flea, but they are not a whit less lively in their locomotion .--St. Nicholas.

The Benefits of Going Barefooted. Children who are allowed to go barefooted enjoy almost perfect immunity from the danger of 'cold' by accidental chilling of the feet, and they are altogether healthier and happier than those who, in obedience to the usages of social life, have their lower extremities permanently invalided and, so to say, carefully swathed and put away in rigid cases. As regards the poorer classes of children, across the country from Manche to there can be no sort of doubt in the mind Lyons, the people of the northeast of the of any one that it is incomparably better division have an average height of 5 feet they should go barefooted than wear 6-6 inches, while those on the southwest boots that let in the wet and stockings side average only 5 feet 4-6 inches.-Bos | that are nearly always damp and foul.-, London Lancet,

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